RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The chair was taken by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. Jervoise.

Canal Bridges.

The Surveyor (Mr. R. Forrester) reported that a hole had been made through the parapet wall of Red Bridge, Basing, and that it must have taken some time and considerable force to do this. The matter had been reported to Supt. Hale.

A letter from the Basing Parish Council was read, from which it appeared that that body had recently passed a resolution calling attention to the dangerous state of the canal bridges in Basing, particularly the bridges known as Guffs's and The Wharf. To this the Clerk was instructed to reply that the matter is receiving the earnest consideration of the Council.

Mr. Palmer asked if the wooden swing bridge at Mapledurwell was all right. The Surveyor replied that it was dangerous. The arm which prevented it moving was broken, so that the wind moved the bridge out of position, and in the dark a person might step into the canal. Mr. Palmer said a person almost stepped in the other night. On the proposition of the Rev. H. S. Ward, seconded by Mr. J. W. Taylor, the Surveyor was instructed to take steps to prevent the bridge moving out of position, the Clerk to inform the Receiver of the Canal Company that this will be done without accepting liability for the repair of the bridge. The Surveyor said the cost would not exceed a sovereign.

Damage to Roads by Engine Traffic.

The Surveyor reported that Mr. W. Wright, of Alton, had been hauling bricks through Up Nately to Greywell boundary. He had made four journeys with a ten ton engine and three with a much heavier one. The latter engine would do serious injury if the traffic was continued. In this case the Clerk had notified Mr. Wright that he would be held liable for any damage caused by extraordinary traffic, and the roadmen had been instructed to take particulars.

The Chairman said the traffic had stopped, but the Surveyor would take notice when it began again.

Mr. Roberts Thomson asked if the Council had any power to stop the traffic. It was cutting the roads in his neighbourhood all to pieces.

The Clerk said that under ordinary circumstances the traffic could not be prohibited. There was a case in South Wales where the traffic was stopped, but the condition of the road in that case was, he believed, absolutely terrible. It could not be called a road at all after the traffic had finished. The worst case he had seen in this part of the country was near Bentley Station.

The Chairman: That was done by the War Office (laughter).

A circular from the Romsey Rural District Council on this subject was read, and was laid on the table. Mr. H. Hinton remarked that the traffic would not hurt if the loads were not so heavy.

A letter from Messrs. Lamb, Brooks and Co., the Solicitors to the Trustees of John Whistler, deceased, was read, in which they called attention to the risk of injury to their clients' property at Whistler's Farm, Sherborne St. John, through the oscillation caused by engine traffic. Sir R. Rycroft said he should think it was very unpleasant, but the Council could do nothing. Major-General Lukin said it would lessen the mischief if Mr. Leader would not go so fast and keep as far away from the house as possible. The Clerk was instructed to reply that the Council has no power to stop the traffic, and that if the speed is exceeded the police authorities should be informed of it.

Improvement of Corner.

The Committee appointed to view the dangerous corners at Sherborne St. John reported that they met on the 3rd February and viewed the dangerous corners at Moss Hill and Brick Kiln Lane. They considered that the lowering of the bank at the latter spot should be postponed till after next harvest. With regard to Moss Hill Corner, instructions were given to the Surveyor to grub up the old stumps and lower the bank so that anyone travelling round the corner could be seen. This work had been completed at a cost of £1 12s 6d. The Council passed a vote of thanks to Mr. C. L. Chute for kindly allowing the bank to be lowered.

The Chairman: It is safe for motors now?

General Lukin: Yes, you can see round the corner beautifully now.

Road near Herriard Station.

The Clerk read a letter from Mr. D. H. R. Wyatt, of Weston Corbett, calling attention to the condition of the road near Herriard station, which he described as ruinous to carriages. He had promptly complied with the Council's request to cut trees which were alleged to be obstructing the road, and he hoped the Council would take as prompt steps in this matter, for the obstruction to traffic caused by the present condition of the road was far greater than that caused by overhanging trees. The road had become an important one since the railway had been built.

It was admitted by the Council that the road is in a bad condition, and the Clerk was instructed to inform Mr. Wyatt that it is proposed to take steps to widen the road next autumn.

Other Business.

Permission to lay pipes under the road at Hartley Mill was granted to Mr. Lionel Phillips on the usual conditions; also to Mr. H. Crate, of The Wheatsheaf Inn, Popham Lane, to lay a pipe across the road at Popham Lane.

A letter from the Basing Parish Council with reference to the alleged pollution of the river Loddon by the Basingstoke Town Council was read, to which the Clerk was instructed to reply that the Council believes the urban authority is doing all it can to put their drainage in order, and that the Thames Conservators appear to be satisfied with the steps now in progress; also that the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector have inspected the river and find no evidence of recent pollution.

It was resolved to prosecute Messrs. Wallis and Tigwell for allowing their new cottages at Newnham Lane to be occupied before a certificate had been granted. Certificates of occupation were granted in respect of two cottages at Basing belonging to Mr. Randall. With regard to the occupation of some cottages at East Oakley before a certificate had been granted it was stated that the owner had seen the Chairman of the Council and had obtained his verbal sanction for the occupation of the cottages, which had been inspected by Mr. Forrester and found fit for occupation. Asked if it was regular for the Chairman to do this the Clerk said that not even the Council had authority to do it. It was provided by Act of Parliament that houses must not be occupied until the certificate had been granted.

Mr. Forrester reported that the sanitary arrangements of the School at Sherborne St. John had been thoroughly overhauled, and were now satisfactory. A certificate to that effect will be granted to the Managers, if applied for.

Medical Officer's Annual Report.

The Clerk read the Medical Officer's report for 1904, which was as follows:

To the Chairman and members of the Basingstoke Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,—I beg to lay before you for your consideration the report required by the Local Government Board for the year ending 1904, with statistics from this District, which are of a very favourable character.

It has been drawn up as carefully as possible, and in dealing with figures and rates every endeavour has been made to render the returns quite reliable.

The year 1904 may on the whole be regarded as a healthy year; sickness was not general, and the mortality was very low. During the year the deaths of 141 persons of all ages and from all causes were registered, showing a death-rate of 11.8 per 1,000, being a decrease on that of 1903, which was 14.4 per 1,000. 64 were persons over 65 years of age, and as usual the largest number of deaths (namely 47) took place in No. 4 District, which includes the Workhouse and Infirmary with its many cases of senile decay.

The death rate of those under one year of age was 1.8 per 1,000 of the births registered.

The birth rate was 23.6 per 1,000, a slight decrease on last year, which was 24.3 per 1,000.

Of the zymotic or infectious diseases the returns are very satisfactory: 11 cases were notified, the same as last year, as against 34 in 1902; they include 1 scarlatina, 7 diphtheria, 1 puerperal fever, 1 erysipelas and 1 typhoid fever. With regard to the diphtheria, one case was imported from Berkshire, one was due to defective drainage, and four were due to the children drinking polluted water at school. I was unable to find any cause for the other infectious diseases. All the cases were carefully inquired into, sanitary defects remedied, and every precaution taken, by means of isolation, disinfection, fumigation, the supply of disinfectants, to prevent the spread of infection, and in no instance did infection spread, and every case has been reported on. Three cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital and the remaining eight were treated at home.

An epidemic of measles occurred at Up-Nately which necessitated the closure of the school for three weeks.

A general inspection of the District was carried out during the year. All dairies and bakehouses have been systematically inspected. The villages and schools have also received attention, and existing nuisances or sanitary defects dealt with.

The water supply of the District is good and maintains its quality and efficiency.

The general health of the Rural District is reported as having been very good. The report from this District records a most satisfactory year, marked not only by a low rate of mortality, but by a remarkable immunity from any severe outbreak of illness; no disease calling for special comment, with the exception that mumps prevailed in some of the villages, and somewhat interfered with the school attendance.

With a view to carrying out the provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, inspections were made of 16 factories, 50 workshops, 6 workplaces and 20 bakehouses; the sanitary arrangements were satisfactory, and directions were given to ensure their being kept in a proper state.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector is appended to that of the Medical Officer of Health and contains a complete summary of the work executed during the year, also tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 of statistics required by the Local Government Board.

I am Gentlemen, your obedient servant,
F. R. Holmes Meyrick, B.A., M.D., B.Ch., &c. University Dublin,
Medical Officer of Health, Rural District, Basingstoke.
Winton House, Basingstoke, Hants, Jan. 31st, 1905.

BOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS

Tuesday.—Magistrates present: The Mayor (W. Hockland Esq.), W. Cannon, Esq., W. Powell, Esq., and H. Jackson, Esq.

Magistrates' Clerk: Mr. H. Wills Chandler.

Railway Refreshment Rooms.

On behalf of Messrs. Spiers and Pond, refreshment contractors at the London and S[torn] Western Railway Station, Mr. F. A. Prance [torn] plied to their Worships to assess the amount [torn] able by his clients to the compensation fun[torn] rate of one third of the maximum. The [torn] tion came before the Bench a short time [torn] was adjourned, it being a new point [torn] Licensing Act of 1904. Mr. Prance [torn] that under the Act provision was mad[torn] pensation fund so that should it [torn] for a licence to be taken away in th[torn] should be a fund out of which comp[torn] be paid. It was his case that to [torn] licensees this would be a hardshi[torn] were licensed for the benefit of [torn] the public, not for the public to [torn] sale of intoxicants was to a c[torn] sidiary rather than an e[torn] [torn] It was therefore [torn] would be the fairer [torn] and that should another [torn] would be of but slight [torn] they would not get an[torn] Consequently it was pr[torn] assessed at a lower rat[torn] licensees. There wer[torn] the schedule to [torn] not necessary [torn] class his clients [torn] were notified as ar[torn] to pay the very [torn] should be charg[torn] which his clie[torn] charged exc[torn] that under [torn] should pay [torn] both on g[torn] grounds th[torn] third sho[torn] in variou[torn] general[torn] where [torn] had [torn] Broo[torn] plac[torn] ma[torn] ex[torn] r[torn]

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR UNION.

The annual meeting of members of the Basingstoke and District Christian Endeavour Union was held on Thursday evening in the Congregational Church. The meeting was preceded by a tea in the schoolroom and an organ recital by Mr. A. G. Wood in the church, the following programme being given: "War March of the Priests" (*Mendelssohn's "Athalie"*); "Lied ohne Worte," No. 18 (*Mendelssohn*); song, "The Golden Cross," Mr. G. J. Stockwell; Improvisation; cornet duet "What are the wild waves saying" (*Glover*), Messrs Kimber and Lansdown; "Grand Chœur" (*Salomé*); quartette, Misses Dudman and Myland, Messrs Peck and Ainsworth; "Minuet" (*Bruce Steane*). The meeting, which was well attended, was presided over by the Rev. J. Richards, of Overton, who at the business meeting in the afternoon had been elected President of the Union for the ensuing year in succession to the Rev. J. G. Tolley. The Rev. J. Holroyd has been asked to take the post of Vice-President, Mr. G. W. Willis has been elected hon. treasurer, and H. B. Jackson re-elected hon. secretary.

...e Hon. Secretary, who read the report for ...st year, apologised for the absence of Miss E ...eatherley, who had been announced to ...ut who was prevented from coming through ... The report stated that the number of ... in the Union had not increased, but ... a growing desire among the members ...l greater use in the town and neigh... Christ and the Church. During the ...n had lost through removals their ...ident (the Rev. J. G. Tolley) and ... (Mr Moubery) The Union now ...tive, 23 associate and 34 honorary

... having sung "O rest in the ...t gave an earnest and encour... principal speaker of the ...Richard Richards-Chelmer... ...l, who held up John the ...Christian Endeavourer ... ...n his life and character ...rs would do well to ...out the Baptist's aim ...as it advanced seemed ... complex: our wants ...ation of the luxuries ... He remembered a ...y greatest wealth ...ants" Let them ...hings that are not ...things that are ...rich the soul ...plicity, and a ...in John the ...er and self... ...at was far ...gs There ...ng people ...d to the ... but pie... ...y inde... ...should ... being ...hom ...heir ...fu... ...id

MARRIAGE OF CAPTAIN G. D. JEFFREYS AND VISCOUNTESS CANTELUPE.

A wedding which excited great interest in Society, and particularly amongst Hampshire people, took place in London on Tuesday afternoon, the contracting parties being Captain George Darell Jeffreys, only son of the Right Hon. A. F. Jeffreys, M.P. for the Northern Division of Hampshire, and Dorothy, Viscountess Cantelupe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Heseltine, of Walhampton, Lymington, and 196, Queen's Gate, S. W.

The ceremony took place in the Guards' Memorial Chapel at Wellington Barracks, the bridegroom being an officer of the Grenadier Guards. Captain Jeffreys it will be remembered, was the youngest officer of his regiment who took part in the victory at Omdurman, and afterwards he served his country in the long campaign in South Africa. Selected members of his company lined the aisles during the service, and a brother officer, Captain B. St Leger Stucley, supported the bridegroom as best man. The instrumental music was supplied by the band of the regiment, conducted by Bandmaster A. Williams, Mus. Bac. There was present a large congregation comprising leading members of the aristocracy, so that, what with the brightness lent by the presence of the Guards and the sumptuous dresses of the ladies, the assemblage assumed quite a brilliant aspect. The gilded dome of the chancel shone richly in the electric light; the altar was lighted with candles, and decorated with vases of white flowers; and the entrance to the chancel was arched with feathery bamboo palms at the base of which were groups of arums and tulips.

Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, honoured the parties by being present. Her Royal Highness, who was accompanied by Lady Sophia Macnamara, wore a costume of cherry red velvet, with a tricorne hat of the same shade, and a beautiful sable wrap. The Duke and Duchess of Westminster arrived with Prince and Princess Henry of Pless. The members of the bridegroom's family who attended the ceremony included his parents and sisters and his uncle, Mr. John Jeffreys; and among those of the bride's family were her father and mother and sisters, Mrs. R. O. Kerrison and Mrs. Hambro being gowned in blue, with ermine. Miss Gladwys Wilson, who came with Lady Chesterfield, looked lovely in smoke blue panne, while her sister wore a petunia gown of the same fabric. Others present were Lord and Lady Barnard, Lord and Lady Northbrook, Lady Selborne, Lord and Lady Winchester, Mrs. W. W. Portal and Miss Portal, Mrs. Wickham, Colonel Cornwallis West, Mr. G. H. Pember and Miss Pember, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Bradshaw (formerly of Audleys Wood). But we must not omit to mention that amongst the congregation were a party of Mr. Jeffreys' tenants and cottagers from the Burkham estate, who had been kindly bidden to witness the ceremony.

While the congregation was assembling the band, who occupied the south transept, played St. Saëns "Reverie du Soir," Massenet's Prelude to "The Assumption," and, by request, Meyerbeer's Coronation March from "The Prophet," the last two pieces, than which no two compositions could afford a greater contrast, being admirably rendered.

The bride arrived at half-past two. Tall and graceful, she looked very charming in her gown of white crêpe de Chine trimmed with Irish guipure lace, with silver full puffed sleeves. The flat white toque and marabout aigrette suited her to perfection, and the dark fur stole and muff gave a touch of warmth to the dead white of the costume. A small contingent of the choir boys awaited her at the entrance to the chapel, but as they faced the altar they did not know she had arrived, and it was Lady Cantelupe herself who gave them the order to move on. She was conducted to the chancel by her father, Mr. John Postle Heseltine, who gave her away. There were no bridesmaids. As the procession moved up the aisle, the hymn "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty" was sung, with band accompaniment. The Rev. C. A. Peacock, Chaplain of the Guards' Chapel, officiated, assisted by the Rev. W. G. Cazalet, Rector of Bentworth, who read the opening charge, and in the place of the address read St Paul's exposition on charity (I Cor. xiii). After the Benediction the choir sang Stainer's Sevenfold Amen. While the registers were being signed (Princess Louise being one of the witnesses) the congregation sang the English version of the grand old German hymn of thanksgiving "Nun danket alle Gott," the last verse being sung in unison.

A reception was held at the residence of the bride's parents at Queen's Gate, and the newly wedded couple subsequently left for Hull Place, Deal, kindly lent by Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Conway, whence they will proceed to the Riviera and Italy. The bride's travelling dress was of pale blue cloth.

The bride's presents were numerous and costly and included the following: From H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, old rosewood writing bureau; bride's parents and brothers and sisters, pearl and diamond collar; bridegroom to bride, diamond and pearl brooch; Right Hon. A. F. Jeffreys, pearl, diamond and enamel pendant; Mrs. A. F. Jeffreys, fur carriage rug; Mr. and Hon Mrs Charles Trotter, pearl, diamond and amethyst pendant; Lord and Lady Barnard, pearl, diamond and enamel brooch; Countess of Chesterfield, ruby and diamond ring; Lord and Lady Camden, electric clock; household servants and employés at Walhampton, Lymington, large silver bowl; household at 51, Hans Place, two silver sauce boats. The bridegroom's presents, numbering about 300, included silver candelabra and candlesticks from his brother officers of the Grenadier Guards, and a large clock with inscription from the tenants and employés on Burkham Estate.

OAKLEY.

DEATH AND FUNERAL OF MRS. W. GARRETT.

This quiet little village has again been visited by death, casting the place in a gloom, by the decease on Saturday last of Amelia M. Garrett, the devoted and beloved wife of William Garrett, Garden View, East Oakley. A year ago her health began to fail and last September she took to her bed and from then she has been a most patient sufferer. Often, when in acute pain, she would put on a cheery smile to try and reassure those who were watching that she was not so ill as she really was. In her early days she was a Sunday School teacher and has for a great many years been a member of the Church Choir at Oakley. The funeral took place on Wednesday at the Church where she has most devotedly given her services as a singer. The last sad rites were conducted by the Rector (Rev. F. G. Hoare). The choir was in attendance and led the singing of Psalm xxxix, Nunc Dimittis and the four hymns from the Ancient and Modern Hymn Book, viz., "For ever with the Lord," "On the resurrection morning," "Now the labourer's task is o'er," and "How bright these glorious spirits shine." Among the mourners were:—Mr W. Garrett (husband), Mrs F. A. Peters, Miss L. Roab, Miss D. Roab (nieces), Mr. and Mrs. W. Phillips, Mr. W. and Miss E. and B. Phillips (nephew and nieces), Mr. C. A. Peters, Mrs. E. Eckett, Mrs. Peters, Miss Rawlings, Miss Grigg, Mr. G. Blowden, Mr. T. Awbery and many other friends and neighbours. Upon arriving at the churchyard they were met by a large party assembled at that end, including Lady Addington, Miss Chute from Malshanger House, Mrs. Home, Miss Home, Mr. R. Peters, Miss Blackburn, Miss Foster, Mrs. N. Kneller, Mrs. H. Kneller, Miss N. Kneller, Mrs. Wright, Miss Wright, Mrs. Squire, etc. The following sent wreaths of beautiful flowers:—From her sorrowing husband and niece Flo; from Lily, Daisy and Jack, in loving memory of our dear Aunt; in loving memory from her brother and sister, William and Annie; in loving memory from her nephew and nieces; with deepest sympathy from Mrs. E. Eckett, Mr. and Mrs. Evans; in loving memory, from Charlie, and with deepest sympathy, Colonel H. Rogers; with deep sympathy, Mrs. Roach; in remembrance of many years' association in the choir, from Lady Addington and Mrs. Evelyn Hubbard; with sincerest sympathy, from Sir Wyndham Portal and Mrs. Chute; with much sympathy, from the Oakley Church Choir; in fond memory of a dear friend, from E. Blackburn and H. J. Peters; in loving memory, from H. and E. Titcombe; with sincere sympathy, from Mrs. Blowden; in loving memory, from A. Grigg; with sympathy, from the Oakley Cricket Club. The funeral arrangements were most satisfactorily carried out by Messrs. Garrett Bros., of East Oakley. By the kindness of Sir Wyndham Portal the grave was lined and studded with 58 bunches of snowdrops (the number representing the age of the deceased). This work was most tastefully carried out by some of the gardeners at Malshanger House.

DEANE.

A Smoking Concert organised by Mr. F. Redstall was held at Deane late on Saturday evening last in aid of the funds which are being raised to erect a Parish Reading Room. Mr L. H. Whitlock took the chair, and there was a large company present. Mr Smith, the noted banjo player from Basingstoke, kindly gave his services, and he was accompanied by Mr. Harvey, of Worting. In addition to these performers Messrs. F. Redstall, A. Blake, R. Fuller, F. Baker, Rhodes, Field, J. Holmes, Forward, and others also added to the harmony of the evening. A collection made for the purposes of the above was taken and amounted to £1 1s 2d. At the close the chairman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the performers, which was carried with acclamation. A similar compliment was paid to the chairman for presiding, and the National Anthem closed a very pleasant gathering.